

REMARKS

Applicant notes the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 16 through 18 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, to facilitate prosecution and early allowance of the application. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the subject matter of claim 16. Additionally, Applicant has amended the language directed to the position of the aperture. The originally filed disclosure is such as that as seen in original claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 2, 4, and 19.

Independent claim 5 has also been amended with the subject matter of objected to claim 16. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 6, 7, and 17 which depend therefrom.

Claim 10 has been amended to clarify that the golf club has an angled hosel which extends from a rear surface of a heel. Applicant respectfully submits that no fair combination of the cited references disclose an angled hosel which extends from a rear surface of a heel having at least one of a front heel face or a rear heel face intersecting the plane defined by the front face of the club head. It is respectfully submitted that placement of the hosel from a rear of the club permits a more aerodynamic front face of the club. Further, placement of the hosel and accompanying shaft along a rear heel of the club improves both the visibility of the ball relative to the golfer and places the hosel away from the front heel face which avoids the tendency of the hosel and/or connecting portion of the shaft to either shank the ball or dig into the turf during a golfer's swing. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 10 is patentably distinct over the cited references.

Claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that it depends from an allowable claim. Further, claim 11 now incorporates the subject matter of objected to claim 18 and therefore is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 is dependent from claim 10 and sets forth a position of the bore perpendicular to a rear surface of the heel which defines the bore. Applicant

respectfully submits that this feature is not taught or suggested by the art of record and respectfully submits that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 depends from claim 10 and sets forth the limitation of a non-perpendicular angle and formed by the bore relative to the rear heel surface which defines the bore. Applicant respectfully submits that this feature is not taught or suggested within the cited art of reference and that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant has added a new claim 21 directed to a golf club having a club head defining a gap beneath said heel similar to the subject matter in objected to claim 16. Additionally, the claim sets forth that the golf club has a hosel extending from at least one of a front or rear surface and that the portion surrounding the aperture which receives said hosel defines a flat planar surface which intersects a plane defined by the front face of the club. Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 21 is not taught or suggested by the references of record and is in condition for allowance.

News claims 22 through 26 depend from claim 21 which is believed an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, for at least that reason, claims 22 through 26 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant is in the process of scheduling an interview with the Examiner during the week of March 7, 2005, and anticipates being able to point out distinctive features of the pending claims with respect to the prior art. Applicant will supplement these remarks with an appropriate Interview Summary upon completion of the Interview.

Inasmuch as all outstanding issues raised by the Examiner have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and action to such effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his/her convenience should only minor issues remain after consideration of the present Amendment, to permit early resolution of same.

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Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit
Account No. 50-3172.

Respectfully submitted,

J. BENNETT MULLINAX, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bennett Mullinax', written in a cursive style.

J. Bennett Mullinax
Reg. No. 36,221